

SECRET
S E C R E T

26 August 1949

Chief, Foreign Branch M
Chief of Station, Karlsruhe, Germany

Operational
Carlheinz MUELLER - Biographical Information

The following information has become available concerning
Subject:

Born 20 June 1917 in Dresden. His father was born a Hungarian citizen, but removed to Dresden, Germany in 1913 where he was director of the Dresdener Bank until 1934.

Educated in Dresden- Abitur and Diplom Kaufmann.

Employed thereafter as apprentice with the Deutsche Handels AG in Dresden.

In 1936, moved to Warsaw and set up the wholesale firm of Vinetta.

In 1938, was drafted into the German Army, serving in 1939 as corporal with an observation balloon battery (Bb4), and later with an assault gun battery. Was severely wounded in front of Antwerp, and was temporarily discharged from the army, presumably in 1940.

Then spent seven months in Switzerland as official representative of German Government, buying steel.

Then (probably early 1942), went to Poland and took charge of the "Treuhandstelle Lemberg", a part of the Ostministerium. Also concerned himself there with closing out the former Russian trade organization Promtorg. Then resumed operation of his

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old firm Vinetta in Warsaw and Lemberg. In 1942, Subject also was married to Janina nee Frankowska, allegedly of an old Polish aristocratic family. This marriage was somewhat later dissolved because of the anti-Polish pressure in Germany at that time, but was reinstated when the war was over.

In 1943, was recalled to the German Army, serving first with an artillery replacement unit in Potsdam; then with a Kuban Cossack formation in France and on the east front; then transferred to an armored division, promoted to 1st Lieutenant and given command of a battery. Was severely wounded again in 1944 and hospitalized in Dresden (bullet lodged in heart). Discharged in February 1945 because of wounds. Not taken prisoner of war because of wounded condition.

On discharge from hospital, returned to parents' home in Dresden, (his father at that time was director of the Saechsische Landeskreditbank).

When sufficiently recovered, began trading operations with Raznoexport in Dresden, but removed to West Berlin in January 1948 after certain difficulties with this firm. These difficulties were doubtless of a black market nature. His private address in Berlin is:

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Hohenzollerndamm 35a

Subject lives here with his wife (no children) in a 1½ room apartment, paying 80 West Marks per month rent. This address is next door to the large complex of British Military Government buildings on the Fehrbelliner Platz.

Subject's business address is Berlin W 35 (US Sector), Potsdamer str. 144, where he runs the Handels- und Industrie Kontor. According to Subject, he has in this business a monthly volume of business of about 25,000 East Marks and a black volume of about 10,000 West Marks per month. Out of this business, he estimates that he earns for himself from 600 to 1000 West Marks per month. The firm deals in machines and supplies mainly in the light industry field, selling chiefly to the Sovzone Railway System, and to industrial plants in the eastern zone.

Subject's father is a public official in Dresden, with the rank of Ministerialdirektor, and serving as assistant Finance Minister for Saxony. (No confirmation of this as yet.)

Subject speaks perfect Polish, Ukrainian; some Russian; fluent German; a smattering of English.

When Subject first came to West Berlin in 1948, he entered into partnership with one Hellmuth Stuermer, in the firm Vinetta

Grosshandlung, also located at Potsdamerstr 144, but this partnership was dissolved in the summer of 1948. Subject then set up his present firm in partnership with one Saratcheff, a Bulgarian, but the latter also soon quit, and Subject has been running the business since then. Stuermer, however, remained at Potsdamerstr 144 and ran the Vinetta firm until early June 1949. He has now disappeared from view. We have on file two items of business correspondence between the Vinetta firm and [] Subject denies having any knowledge of [], however.

LJF:cvg